

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04368 242114Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OPIC-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /092 W

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R 241040Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9117

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4368

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, DR, US

SUBJECT: MUSHROOMS

REF: STATE 205779

1. THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAS ONE KNOWN ENTITY ENGAGED IN THE GROWING, PROCESSING, CANNING AND EXPORT OF MUSHROOMS. THE FIRM IS NAMED INDUSTRIAS INTERNACIONALES DE ALIMENTOS S.A. (INASA). THE PRINCIPLE INVESTOR, OPERATOR AND PRESIDENT/TREASURER OF INASA IS HSING LIU, AMCIT OF CHINESE DESCENT, WHO REPORTEDLY RESIDES IN NEW YORK CITY WHERE HE IS PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL FOODS, INC. 30 WALL STREET, NEW YORK. INASA BEGAN OPERATION ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO AND EXPECTS TO BE AT FULL CAPACITY WITHIN TWO OR THREE YEARS.

2. INASA REPORTEDLY EXPORTS ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL PRODUCTION. ALMOST ALL EXPORTS GO TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES WITH SOME MINOR QUANTITIES FOR MARKETS IN PUERTO RICO AND JAMAICA.

3. SPECIFIC DATA REQUESTED REFTEL FOLLOWS:

A. PRODUCTION CAPACITY: CURRENT PRODUCTION ACCORDING TO AN INASA OFFICIAL IS 4 1/2-5 TONS DAILY OF FRESH, UNPROCESSED MUSHROOMS. CURRENT FARM PRODUCTION IS 40 PER CENT OF PLANNED CAPACITY; FINAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY PROJECTED IS 12 1/2 TONS PER DAY. INASA ESTIMATES A WEIGHT SHRINKAGE FACTOR OF ABOUT 40 PER CENT DURING THE CANNING PROCESS.

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PAGE 02 SANTO 04368 242114Z

B. AREA PLANTED: PRECISE FIGURE N/A. A RECENT NEWS ARTICLE REPORTS THAT INASA HAS A NUMBER OF 600-FOOT GROWING SHEDS IN OPERATION.

EACH SHED COVERS ABOUT 10,000 SQ. FT.

C. YIELD PER SQUARE FOOT: 2 1/2-3 POUNDS EVERY THREE MONTHS.

D. EMPLOYMENT: INASA REPORTEDLY EMPLOYS A TOTAL OF 400 PERSONS; AT PROJECT COMPLETION, EMPLOYMENT IS PROJECTED AT 800. BULK OF LABOR FORCE IS DOMINICAN BUT SUPERVISORY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ARE OF CHINESE ORIGIN.

3. INVESTMENT: INASA OFFICIAL STATES CURRENT INVESTMENT IS US \$2 1/2 MILLION WITH TOTAL PLANNED INVESTMENT AT \$3-3 1/2 MILLION. PUBLIC RECORDS ON AUTHORIZED AND PAID-IN CAPITAL LIST RD \$650,000 AND RD \$463,000, RESPECTIVELY.

F. IDENTITY OF INVESTORS: HSING LIU (PRESIDENT/TREASURER OF INASA AND PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL FOODS, INC., NYC) REPORTEDLY OWNS OR CONTROLS 95-97 PER CENT OF THE OPERATION.
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